

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
January 10, 2007**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Western District of Kentucky**

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IOWA WOMAN INDICTED FOR IDENTITY THEFT AND BANK FRAUD

-- Obtained over \$96,000 in cash advances

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that on January 9, 2007, a federal Grand Jury in Louisville **returned an Indictment** charging **CHRISTAL LUELLA WESSELS**, age 28, of 6827 Gabels Way, Johnston, IA 50131, with bank fraud, conspiracy to commit bank fraud, and aggravated identity theft.

The Indictment charges that between on or about and between May 19, 2006 and May 23, 2006, **Wessels** and an unknown individual used counterfeit Louisiana drivers licenses and stolen Wells Fargo credit card numbers to obtain \$96,446 in cash advances from banks in Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky.

If convicted, the maximum potential penalties are 37 years imprisonment, a \$1,500,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 5 years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ann Claire Phillips and was investigated by the United States Secret Service.

Wessels is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on January 23, 2007, at 9:15 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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